

## Message Text

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P R 161010Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

SECSTATE WASH DC 1381

UNCLAS IZMIR 162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MCAP, TU

SUBJECT: FORMATION OF AEGEAN ARMY

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, TURKEY'S NEW AEGEAN ARMY WILL BE OFFICALLY ACTIVATED AND ITS COMMANDER INSTALLED IN CEREMONIES AT ITS HACILAR KIRI HEADQUARTERS NEAR BORNOVA, IN FACILITIES FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE 57TH ARTILLERY BRIGADE. SENIOR NATO OFFICERS HAVE RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO THE CEREMONY AND PLAN TO ATTEND. THE DATE CHOSEN, SUNDAY, JULY 20, COINCIDES WITH THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH

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LANDING ON CYPRUS. THE NEW ARMY'S COMMANDER, GENERAL TURGUT SUNALP, WHO IS PRESENTLY COMMANDANT OF THE WAR ACADEMY AND HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED WITH THE CYPRUS BRIGADE, ARRIVED IN IZMIR JULY 14 TO TAKE UP HIS DUTIES. THE NEW COMMAND, RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE OF THE COASTAL REGION BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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CANAKKALE (THE DARDANELLES) AND ANTALYA IN SOUTHWEST

TURKEY, IS MADE UP ON EXISTING GROUND UNITS ALREADY IN PLACE,  
AND WILL BE REINFORCED WITH APPROPRIATE AIR AND NAVAL  
ELEMENTS.

2. THE AEGEAN ARMY WILL BE THE FOURTH COMPLETE ARMY OF  
THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES, AND IS THE FIRST ARMY-SIZED COMMAND  
ESTABLISHED SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY.  
THE EXISTING FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES WERE ALL FORMED  
DURING THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE PRIOR TO PROCLAMATION OF  
THE REPUBLIC. IT IS MORE SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, THAT, THE NEW  
COMMAND IS TURKEY'S FIRST MAJOR MILITARY ORGANIZATION WHICH  
EXISTS COMPLETELY OUTSIDE THE NATO STRUCTURE, AND THUS  
FULFILLS A LONG-FELT NEED FOR A WHOLLY "NATIONAL" FORCE.

3. GENERAL SUNALP IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE  
ON FRIDAY, JULY 18, AT WHICH TIME THE ROLE AND MISSION OF THE

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NEW AEGEAN ARMY MAY BE MORE FULLY DESCRIBED.

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